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Assembly California Legislature



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Via Email: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

November 6, 2009

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Blue Ribbon Task Force Members:

As an Assemblymember representing portions of San Diego County, the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) can have a significant impact on my constituents and the businesses in our region who rely heavily on abundant ocean resources for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities. I support a balanced MLPA that meets the goals of the act while promoting both responsibly-regulated recreational and commercial fishing in the area.


Proposal 2 delivers strong protection of California's ocean resources while minimizing adverse economic impacts for San Diego. Proposal 2 continues protection for the iconic kelp in La Jolla cove and adds protection for the abundant biodiversity off of Sunset Cliffs. But most importantly, it achieves these important protections while maintaining reasonable access for kayak fishermen, private boat anglers and sport boats alike. On the contrary, if proposals 1 or 3 are enacted, the marine economies in this area would be devastated.

By placing 16% of southern California's ocean environment in protected areas, Proposal 2 provides significant additional protections for California's sustainable ocean resources. It protects many of the most biologically productive, rich and diverse marine habitats in the state, including lush kelp forests, rugged reef systems, submarine canyons, intertidal coastal stretches, surf grass beds, pinniped rookeries, avian roosting sites, estuaries and tidal flats. It is an integrated proposal, maximizing conservation goals while at the same time minimizing impact on those who enjoy the sport of fishing, those who depend on fishing for their livelihood, and the economy of California.

While the other two proposals before the Blue Ribbon Task Force protect a slightly larger percentage of the study area, it is not without substantial additional cost. Even if it is possible to add to the Proposal 2 scores from the Science Advisory Team by a few percentage points, doing so will devastate the heritage and enjoyment of recreational fishermen and place many commercial fishermen on the brink of financial collapse – including those in the San Diego area.

Thank you for considering the benefits of Proposal 2 as the most reasonable and balanced approach.

Sincerely,


Joel Anderson
Assemblyman

CC: Secretary Mike Chrisman, California Natural Resources Agency